



Summary of ICER's Health Equity White Paper

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This summary is designed to help patients and communities learn about the key recommendations from the March 2023 white paper "Advancing Health Technology Assessment Methods that Support Health Equity."

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Why Should We Support Health Equity in Health Technology Assessment?

Health technology assessment (HTA) is one way of creating a health system that is fair to everyone. Therefore, it is important to make sure that the process and methods of HTA follow best practices for achieving the goal of health equity.

What is HTA?

HTA is a way to measure how well a treatment works. Knowing how well a treatment works can help people who make decisions about drug pricing and health insurance coverage policies.



What is Health Equity?

Health equity is the idea that all people should have an equal opportunity to better health without any barriers related to race, ethnicity, gender identity, preferred language, where they live, or other important factors.



Objective of White Paper

To give recommendations for HTA that will help societies improve health equity for racial, ethnic, and socially disadvantaged groups.

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The Institute for Clinical and Economic Review (ICER) recommends the following for how HTA processes and methods can help improve health equity:

1

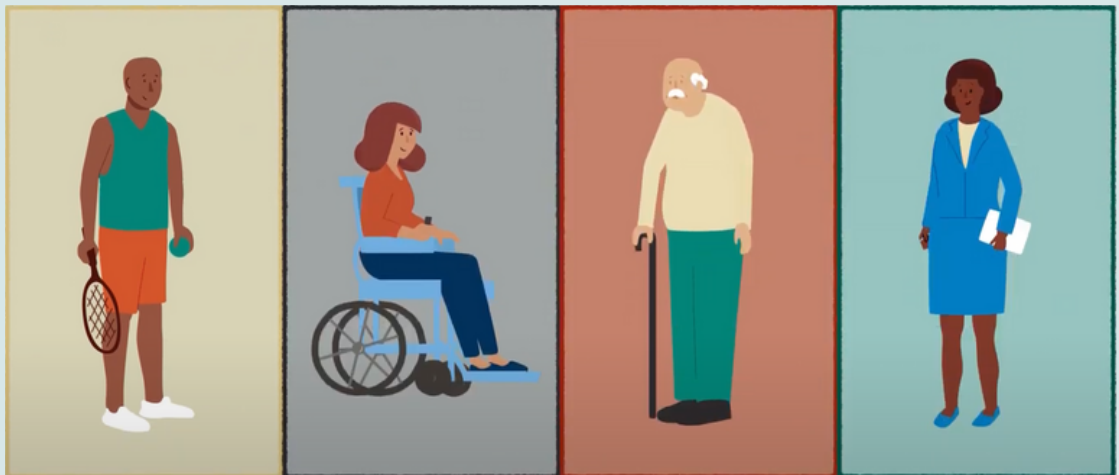
Organizations that use HTA should work directly with patients and patient groups.

Why?

To learn about the diversity of patient experiences and understand what matters most to patients when a new treatment is available.

2

Organizations that use HTA should advocate for clinical trials to include diverse groups of patients.



Why?

Drug makers who design and lead clinical trials should be expected to include a diverse group of patients. The characteristics of patients in the clinical trials should also match the patients who have the disease in the community. This way the results of the trials applies to everyone. Drug makers should be rewarded for diverse patient participation in clinical trials and should be asked to make changes in future trials if they do not.

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3

Organizations that use HTA should not calculate different drug cost recommendations for different groups of patients based on race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, or other factors.

Why?

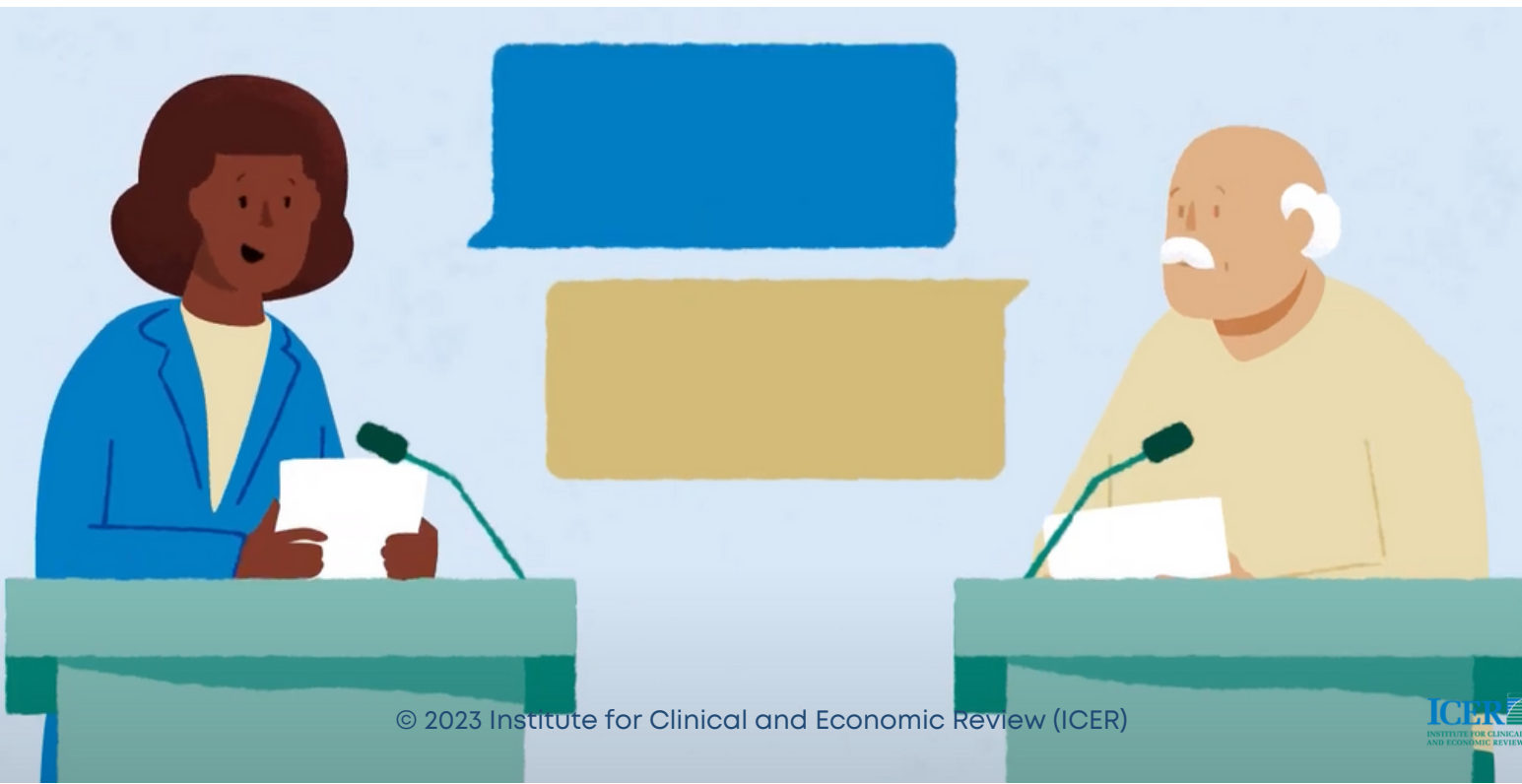
One group of patients is not more important than the other, so we should only recommend one price for all individuals.

4

Organizations that use HTA should bring people together for a meeting to discuss results of the research analysis.

Why?

A group discussion between different health experts (including patients, clinicians, insurance providers, and drug makers) helps make sure that everyone has fair access to the new treatments.



What Does This Paper Mean for ICER?



ICER will immediately take each of these recommendations to guide our own research process moving forward.



ICER will share this document with other HTA groups internationally (examples: Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health, National Institute for Health and Care Excellence) some of which have already tried to include health equity in their own work.



ICER will share this work with leaders in government who are responsible for reviewing, approving, and pricing new treatments.



ICER will make sure that drug makers and health insurance companies are aware of these recommendations and will expect that they will also help improve health equity in the US.